

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 9, 10, 14, and 15 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16, 17, and 20 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 11-13, 16-18, and 20 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at page 2 item 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Laguzzi (U.S. 2,584,886 – hereinafter Laguzzi).

The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Amended, independent claim 1 recites: "...a table, slidably positioned on a top surface of the cabinet; and a storage recess, recessed from the top surface of the cabinet, selectively exposed by sliding of the table, and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof."

Amended, independent claim 6 recites: "...a table, slidably positioned on a top surface of the cabinet; and a storage recess, recessed from the top surface of the cabinet, selectively exposed by sliding of the table, and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof."

And amended, independent claim 20 recites: "...a table, slidably positioned on a top surface of the container; and a storage recess, recessed from the top surface of the container, selectively exposed by sliding of the table, and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof, wherein the second face is opposite to the first face."

Laguzzi discloses a refrigerator A with a cooler casing 20 installed therein. The cooler casing 20 is accessible via doors 50, which are disposed on opposite walls 10 and 11. Additionally, the refrigerator A has a removable cap 35, which, after removal of insulation 36a, enables complete removal of the cooler casing 20. (See Laguzzi, at FIGS. 1-3, and col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 30).

Applicants respectfully submit that Laguzzi neither discloses nor suggests "...a table, slidably positioned on a top surface of the cabinet; and a storage recess, recessed from the top surface of the cabinet, selectively exposed by sliding of the table, and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6, and 20 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 7, which depend from one of independent claims 1 or 6, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 6, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 5, the Examiner rejected claims 8, 12, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Laguzzi in view of Formoso. (U.S. 2,811,405 – hereinafter Formoso). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 6, the Examiner rejected claims 9-11, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Laguzzi, in view of Hull (U.S. Patent No. 2,161,297 – hereinafter Hull). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 3, item 7, the Examiner rejected claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Laguzzi in view of Formoso, and further in view of Hull. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Claims 9, 10, 14, and 15 have been cancelled.

Amended, independent claim 12 recites: "...a table, slidably positioned on a top surface of the cabinet; and a storage recess, recessed from the top surface of the cabinet, selectively exposed by sliding of the table, and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof...."

And amended, independent claim 17 recites: "...a refrigerated storage recess recessed from a top surface of the cabinet and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof; and a table, slidably positioned on the top surface of the cabinet, to selectively expose and cover the refrigerated storage recess."

As noted above, in the section regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102, Laguzzi discloses a refrigerator A with a cooler casing 20 installed therein. The cooler casing 20 is accessible via doors 50, which are disposed on opposite walls 10 and 11. Additionally, the refrigerator A has a removable cap 35, which, after removal of insulation 36a, enables complete

removal of the cooler casing 20. (See Laguzzi, at FIGS. 1-3, and col. 1, line 45 to col. 2, line 30).

Formoso discloses a refrigerator apparatus, rotatably mounted on a base 10, and having a pair of chambers, namely, a freezing chamber and a refrigerating chamber, separated by a partition 24. Each chamber has a single opening covered by one of doors 25 or 26. (See Formoso, at FIGS. 2 and 5, and col. 2, lines 3-10).

Hull discloses a chest refrigerator 20 with an interior food compartment enclosed within an inner liner 28. A fixed, insulated, top wall portion 36 is positioned at a top of the refrigerator 20, and a sliding door 42 provides access to the interior from the top of the refrigerator 20. (See Hull, at FIGS. 1 and 2, and col. 1, line 48 to col. 2, line 27).

Applicants respectfully submit that none of Laguzzi, Formoso, or Hull, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a refrigerated storage recess recessed from a top surface of the cabinet and having a refrigerant pipe embedded in a bottom thereof; and a table, slidably positioned on the top surface of the cabinet, to selectively expose and cover the refrigerated storage recess.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 12 and 17 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 11, 13, 16, and 18, which depend from one of independent claims 6, 12, or 17, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 6, 12, and 17, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

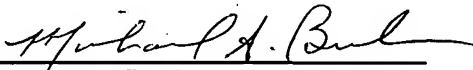
If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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